

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



**April 2004**

Volume 104, Number 04

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## Third Quarter Employment Shows Small Over-the-Year Increase Job Losses in Manufacturing Slowing

**R**oughly 1,700 more people were employed in the Granite State in third quarter 2003 than in the same quarter in 2002, an increase of 0.3 percent. New Hampshire employees made, on average, about \$20 more a week during this time frame.

### Employment

*Health care and social assistance* and *Construction* were the only two sectors in the state that had employment in-

creases greater than the average statewide increase from third quarter 2002 to 2003. *Health care and social assistance*, with an increase of 1,958 jobs, added the most new jobs during this period. *Construction*, still riding on the coattails of the housing boom, added 1,795 new jobs. *Government* also recorded substantial employment increases, adding 1,758 jobs from third quarter 2002 to third quarter 2003.

*Continued on page 8*

New Hampshire gained 1,734 jobs from 3rd Quarter 2002 to 3rd Quarter 2003

NAICS Code	Industry	Employment		Avg Weekly Wage	
		Net Change	Percent Change	Net Change	Percent
	Total, Private plus Government	1,734	0.3%	\$19.76	3.0%
	Total Private	-26	0.0%	\$18.85	2.8%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	-23	-1.0%	\$2.42	0.6%
21	Mining	15	2.9%	-\$18.71	-2.2%
22	Utilities	-148	-5.0%	\$47.24	4.1%
23	Construction	1,795	6.2%	-\$15.63	-2.0%
31-33	Manufacturing	-4,682	-5.6%	\$39.92	4.6%
42	Wholesale Trade	308	1.1%	\$6.69	0.6%
44-45	Retail Trade	196	0.2%	\$23.00	5.1%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	168	1.3%	\$2.32	0.4%
51	Information	-554	-4.4%	\$4.92	0.5%
52	Finance and Insurance	164	0.6%	\$68.85	7.0%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	63	0.8%	\$65.57	8.1%
54	Professional and Technical Services	-450	-1.8%	\$12.69	1.2%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	-24	-0.4%	\$97.68	8.3%
56	Administrative and Waste Services	696	2.9%	\$19.01	3.6%
61	Educational Services	251	1.6%	\$28.06	4.1%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	1,958	2.8%	\$21.06	3.2%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	292	2.2%	-\$0.48	-0.2%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	258	0.5%	\$4.81	1.7%
81	Other Services Except Public Admin	232	1.2%	\$5.31	1.1%
	Total Government	1,758	2.4%	\$27.40	4.4%
	Federal Government	-26	-0.3%	\$70.10	7.2%
	State Government	497	2.5%	\$22.19	3.6%
	Local Government	1,287	2.9%	\$24.15	4.2%



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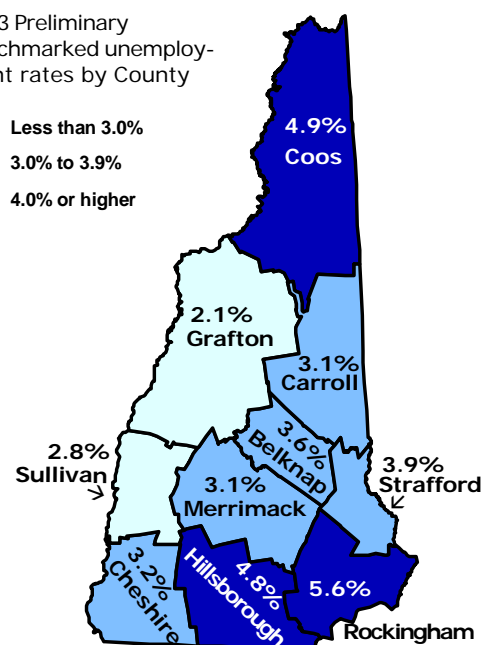
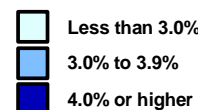
## 2003 Benchmarked Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program uses Current Employment Statistics (CES) numbers, combined with the most recent population estimates for the state and substate areas. The benchmark process revises the monthly estimates and calculates the annual averages for the labor force, employment and unemployment rate.

New Hampshire's 2003 preliminary benchmark of the state's annual average unemployment rate was 4.3 percent. This was a 0.4 percentage point decline from the revised 2002 benchmark level of 4.7 percent. The 2003 annual average unemployment rate ranked fifth lowest in the nation and lowest among the New England states.

The preliminary benchmark for annual average employment in New Hampshire was 688,150 for 2003. This was an increase of 15,188 over the revised 2002 benchmark.\* Unemployment was at a preliminary 2003 benchmark level of

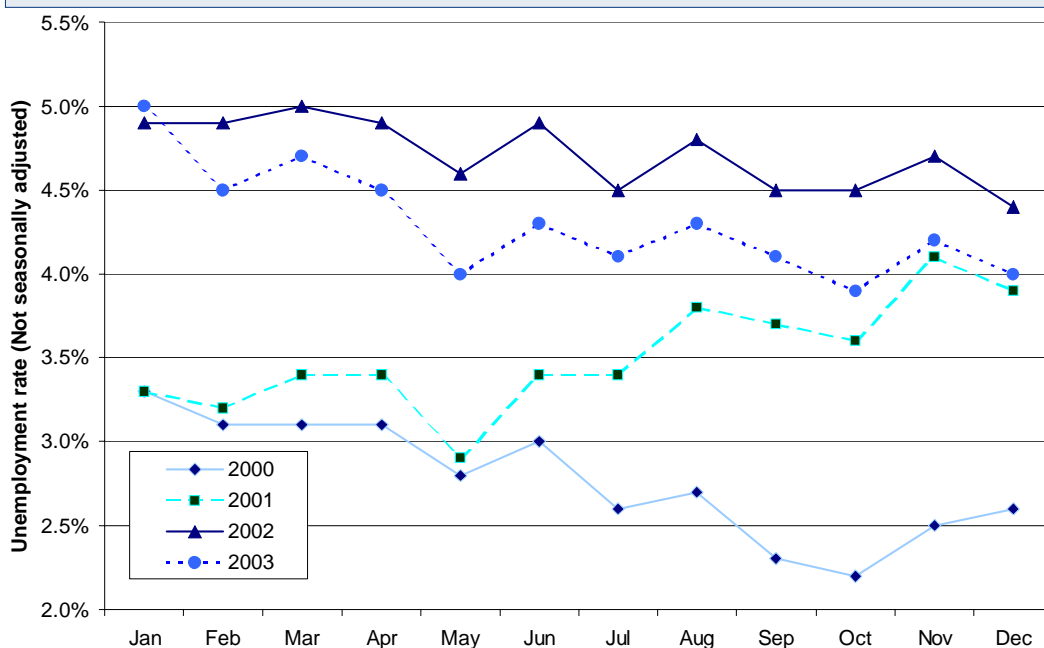
2003 Preliminary  
Benchmarked unemploy-  
ment rates by County



30,730, a decline of 2,556 from the revised 2002 benchmark.\* The benchmarked annual average labor force was 718,880 for 2003, up 12,622 from the revised 2002 level.\*

With the exception of January, the 2003 monthly unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) were lower than the revised 2002

The preliminary 2003 benchmarked monthly unemployment rates were lower than the revised 2002 unemployment rates, but still higher than the 2000 and 2001 final estimated unemployment rates.



\* 2002 revised and 2003 preliminary benchmark figures are pending final review by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. and are subject to change.

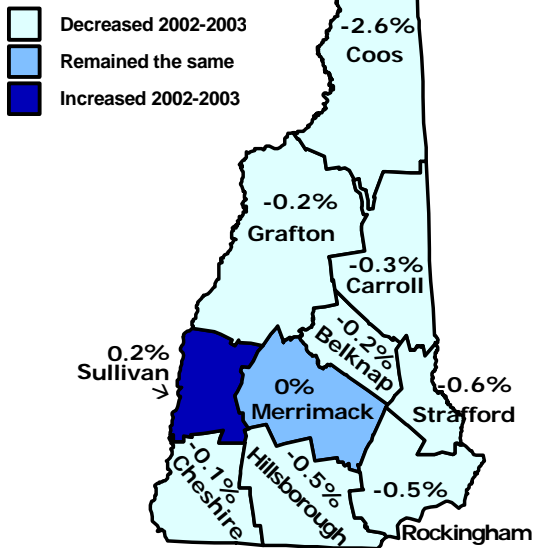
monthly estimates. These rates ranged from 0.3 to 0.6 percentage points lower in the months of 2003 than in the months of 2002.

January, the one month that showed an increase in the number of unemployed over-the-year, grew by 827 unemployed. The over-the-year decreases in the remaining months ranged from 1,858 in July to 4,020 in May.

The preliminary 2003 benchmark showed an increase in the labor force of 8,600 to 15,300 per month and an increase of 9,300 to

*Continued on page 3*

Percentage Point Changes  
from 2002 to 2003 by  
County



18,800 in the employment estimates over 2002 revised benchmark numbers. Employment peaked in July and August with an historical high of more than 700,000 employed in the state each of those months.

The preliminary 2003 benchmarked unemployment rates by county show a higher concentration of unemployed in the southeastern and northern tiers of the state. Sullivan and Merrimack were the only two counties in New Hampshire where the unemployment rate didn't decrease from 2002 to 2003. With the exception of Coos County, changes in the unemployment rates from 2002 to 2003 stayed within close to half a percentage point.

Annette Nielsen

*Continued from page 2*

## Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

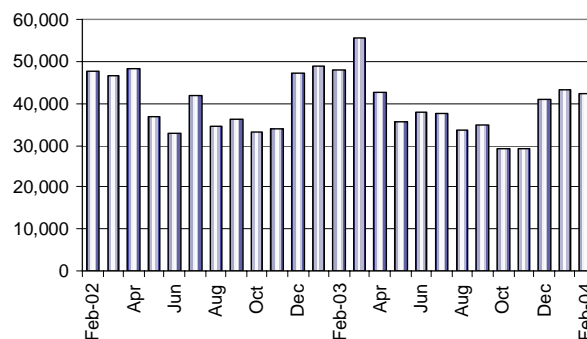
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Change from Previous			
	Month		Year	
	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	
Initial Claims	4,356	6,090	4,333	-1,734 -28.5%
Continued Weeks	42,349	43,167	47,862	-818 -1.9%

## Claims Activity

## Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of February	\$218,833,578.53
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$251.64
Net benefits paid:	\$9,859,018.79
Net contributions received during the month:	\$4,818,746.46
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawal for Administrative Costs:	\$40,974.91

## Trust Fund



## Continued Weeks Claimed

**Feb. 2002 - Feb. 2004**

The number of continued weeks claimed in February 2004 declined over-the-year. The last time this happened in the month of February was in 2001.

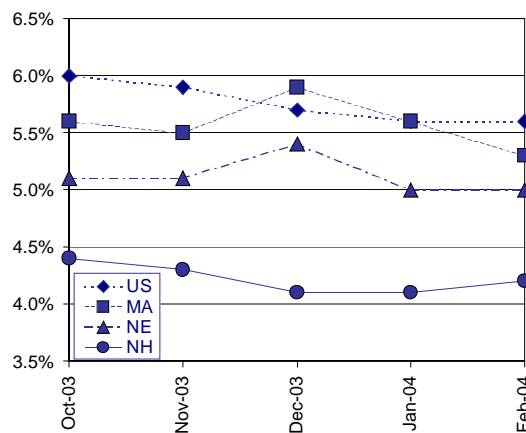
Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
186.2	185.2	183.1	0.5%	1.7%

United States  
All Urban Areas (CPI-U)  
(1982-1984=100)

## Consumer Price Index

## N.H. and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

New Hampshire's February 2004 unemployment rate remained unchanged when compared to the same month of 2003. Every other New England state except Maine saw its rate decrease over-the-year.



### Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary Feb-04	revised Jan-04	Feb-03
United States	5.6%	5.6%	5.9%
Northeast	5.5%	5.7%	5.9%
New England	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%
Connecticut	4.7%	4.7%	5.4%
Maine	5.0%	4.8%	4.9%
Massachusetts	5.3%	5.6%	5.8%
New Hampshire	4.2%	4.1%	4.2%
Rhode Island	5.2%	5.2%	5.5%
Vermont	3.7%	3.8%	4.3%
Mid Atlantic	5.7%	5.9%	6.1%
New Jersey	5.4%	5.5%	6.0%
New York	6.3%	6.6%	6.3%
Pennsylvania	5.1%	5.3%	5.9%

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	revised Jan-04	preliminary Feb-04
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### New Hampshire

Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%
Civilian Labor Force	719,650	717,890	716,000	725,310	726,260
Number Employed	688,240	687,010	686,580	695,710	696,020
Number Unemployed	31,410	30,880	29,420	29,600	30,240

### United States (in thousands)

Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.0%	5.9%	5.7%	5.6%
Civilian Labor Force	146,545	146,793	147,277	146,878	146,863
Number Employed	137,573	138,014	138,603	138,479	138,566
Number Unemployed	8,973	8,779	8,674	8,398	8,297

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	revised Jan-04	preliminary Feb-04
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Total Nonfarm	619,200	617,600	622,300	614,600	617,200
Construction	26,200	26,000	29,000	27,900	28,700
Manufacturing	81,700	81,100	78,700	77,800	77,500
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	139,900	139,700	140,500	139,100	139,900
Leisure and Hospitality	62,300	61,300	63,300	63,300	63,600
Government	90,900	91,000	92,000	90,000	90,400

## Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03
Number of workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	721,410	719,740	705,740
Employed	689,620	687,160	673,940
Unemployed	31,790	32,580	31,800
Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force)	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%

## Unemployment Rates by Area

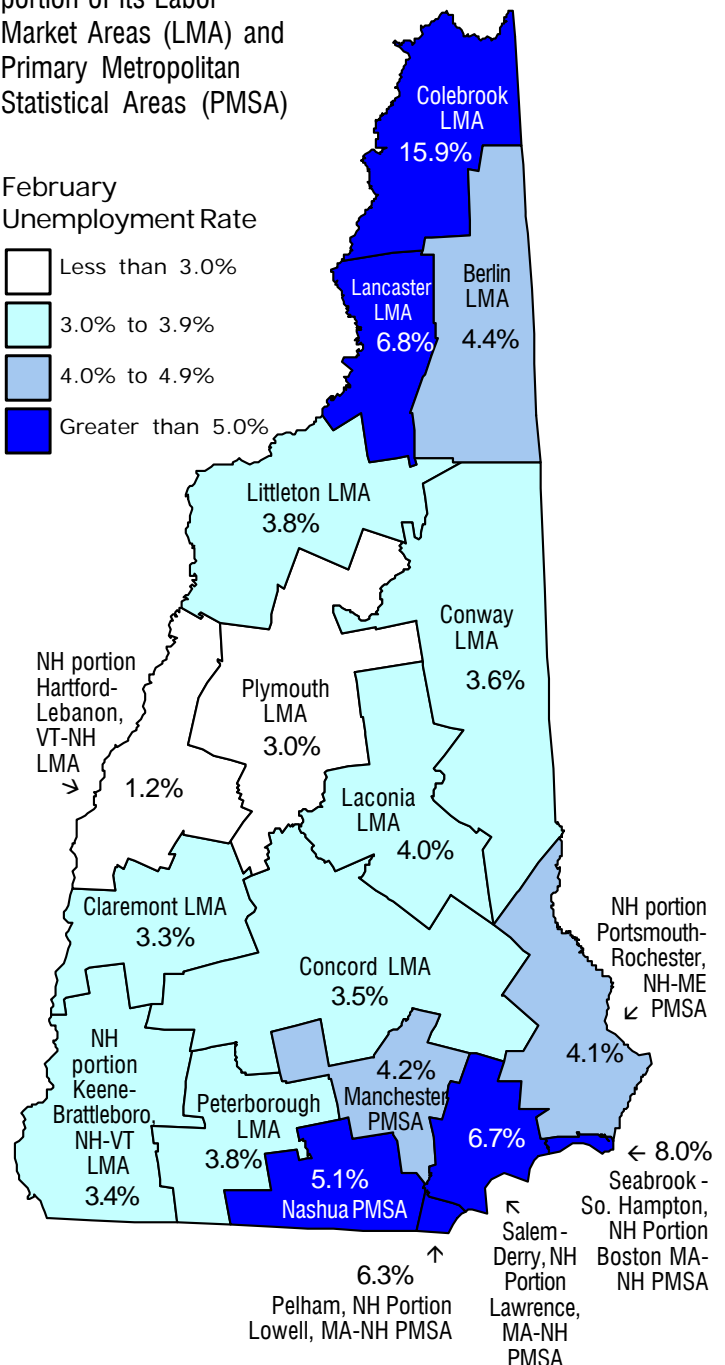
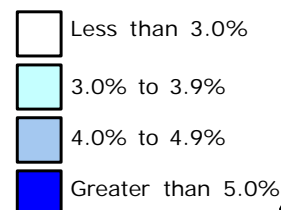
	preliminary Feb-04	revised Jan-04	Feb-03
<b>U.S and Regional States</b>			
United States	6.0%	6.3%	6.4%
Northeast	6.1%	6.3%	6.5%
New England	5.5%	5.7%	5.9%
Connecticut	5.3%	5.2%	6.0%
Maine	5.9%	5.7%	5.8%
Massachusetts	5.7%	6.2%	6.2%
New Hampshire	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%
Rhode Island	6.2%	6.2%	6.5%
Vermont	4.7%	4.8%	5.5%
Mid Atlantic	6.4%	6.5%	6.7%
New Jersey	5.6%	5.8%	6.3%
New York	6.9%	7.2%	6.9%
Pennsylvania	6.0%	6.1%	6.8%
<b>Labor Market Areas</b>			
Berlin LMA	4.4%	5.0%	6.8%
Seabrook-South Hampton NH			
Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	8.0%	8.6%	9.1%
Claremont LMA	3.3%	3.2%	2.7%
Colebrook LMA	15.9%	3.4%	4.1%
Concord LMA	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%
Conway LMA	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon, VT-NH LMA	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro, NH-VT LMA	3.4%	3.5%	3.0%
Laconia LMA	4.0%	4.2%	4.0%
Lancaster LMA	6.8%	4.6%	5.1%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion			
Lawrence, MA-NH PMSA	6.7%	7.1%	7.3%
Littleton LMA	3.8%	3.8%	2.9%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell, MA-NH PMSA	6.3%	6.7%	7.1%
Manchester PMSA	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%
Nashua PMSA	5.1%	5.5%	5.4%
Peterborough LMA	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%
Plymouth LMA	3.0%	3.2%	3.1%
NH Portion Portsmouth- Rochester, NH-ME PMSA	4.1%	4.3%	4.2%
<b>Counties</b>			
Belknap	4.2%	4.4%	4.2%
Carroll	3.4%	3.3%	3.6%
Cheshire	3.6%	3.7%	3.3%
Coos	7.0%	4.5%	5.7%
Grafton	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%
Hillsborough	4.7%	4.9%	4.9%
Merrimack	3.4%	3.5%	3.2%
Rockingham	5.6%	5.9%	5.9%
Strafford	4.0%	4.0%	4.2%
Sullivan	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%

\* 2003 preliminary benchmark figures are pending final review by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. and are subject to change.

Local Area  
Unemployment  
Statistics  
(LAUS)Not Seasonally  
Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Unemployment rates in  
the New Hampshire  
portion of its Labor  
Market Areas (LMA) and  
Primary Metropolitan  
Statistical Areas (PMSA)

February  
Unemployment Rate



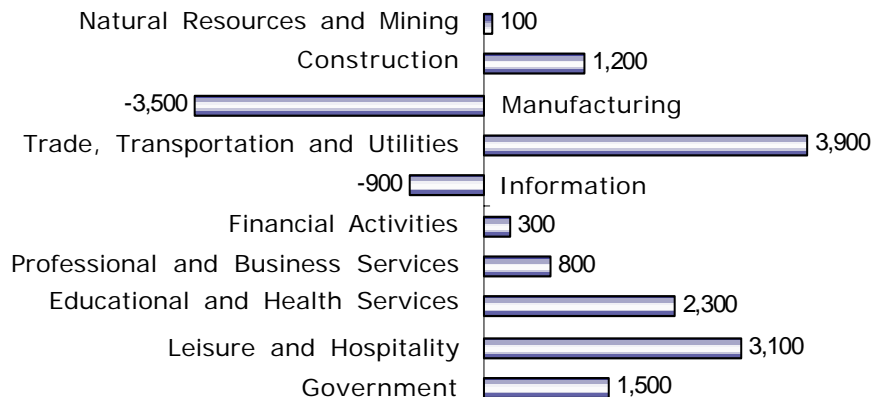
### Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Super Sector by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Month	Year
	(preliminary)	(revised)			
Total All Super Sectors	610,200	608,100	602,600	2,100	7,600
Private Employment Total	516,500	518,200	510,400	-1,700	6,100
Natural Resources & Mining	900	900	800	0	100
Construction	26,100	26,400	24,900	-300	1,200
Manufacturing	77,500	77,800	81,000	-300	-3,500
Durable Goods	58,200	58,100	60,000	100	-1,800
Non-Durable Goods	19,300	19,700	21,000	-400	-1,700
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	137,200	138,800	133,300	-1,600	3,900
Wholesale Trade	27,600	27,300	26,100	300	1,500
Retail Trade	94,000	95,700	91,800	-1,700	2,200
Transportation and Utilities	15,600	15,800	15,400	-200	200
Information	11,500	11,500	12,400	0	-900
Financial Activities	37,100	37,300	36,800	-200	300
Professional and Business	52,800	52,700	52,000	100	800
Educational and Health	95,200	94,600	92,900	600	2,300
Leisure and Hospitality	59,100	59,000	56,000	100	3,100
Other Services	19,100	19,200	20,300	-100	-1,200
Government Total	93,700	89,900	92,200	3,800	1,500

New Hampshire's total nonfarm employment for February 2004 increased over-the-month, despite a large seasonal decrease in Retail trade employment.

### Change in Nonfarm Employment

Feb 03 to Feb 04



### Monthly Analysis of Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

For further analysis please read the *Detailed Monthly Analysis of Industry Employment Data* on our Web site at [www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/nonfarm.htm](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/nonfarm.htm)

**Seasonally Adjusted:** New Hampshire's total nonfarm employment grew by 2,600 jobs in the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for February. Of the publishable industries, construction (supersector 20) and trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) shared the top spot for contributors to the growth. Each supersector added 800 jobs to the total. Government (supersector 90) saw its ranks increase by 400 jobs. To conclude the expansion, leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) added 300 jobs to the mix.

The only sour note in the published seasonally adjusted estimates came with a 300-job reduction in manufacturing (supersector 30).

**Unadjusted:** Over the past three years, total nonfarm employment has declined slightly, while the ten-year average change indicated a slight growth pattern. February's preliminary estimates have returned to the ten-year average trend with a 2,100-job increase overall. Government (supersector 90) with school

*Continued on page 7*

## Monthly Unadjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Employment by Sector number of jobs by place of establishment	Manchester PMSA			Nashua PMSA			Portsmouth-Rochester NH-ME PMSA		
	Preliminary	Change from previous:		Preliminary	Change from previous:		Preliminary	Change from previous:	
		Feb-04	Month		Year	Feb-04		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	109,300	-400	2,200	93,800	-400	-200	121,800	1,300	700
Private Employment Total	96,700	-400	2,200	83,300	-600	-400	96,700	-500	700
Natural Resources and Construction	5,800	-100	400	3,900	-100	200	4,200	-100	300
Manufacturing	11,100	-300	-600	21,200	-100	-900	11,700	-100	-900
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	24,800	-300	1,200	20,500	-500	-500	24,900	-100	500
Wholesale Trade	6,300	0	100	3,600	0	0	4,300	0	100
Retail Trade	14,700	-400	1,100	15,100	-400	-400	18,300	-100	500
Transportation and Utilities	3,800	100	0	1,800	-100	-100	2,300	0	-100
Information	3,000	0	0	1,900	0	0	2,900	0	-400
Financial Activities	8,700	0	-100	6,400	-100	-300	7,500	-100	-100
Professional and Business	13,900	100	700	8,200	100	600	12,200	-100	700
Educational and Health	16,700	100	300	11,300	100	200	18,700	200	800
Leisure and Hospitality	8,400	100	200	6,800	0	200	10,700	-300	-400
Services	4,300	0	100	3,100	0	100	8,100	100	-300
Government Total	12,600	0	0	10,500	200	200	25,100	1,800	0

## Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb-04 prelim.	Jan-04 revised	Feb-03	Feb-04 prelim.	Jan-04 revised	Feb-03	Feb-04 prelim.	Jan-04 revised	Feb-03
<b>New Hampshire</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$615.20	\$620.37	\$594.28	40.5	40.6	40.4	\$15.19	\$15.28	\$14.71
Durable Goods	636.20	643.36	619.76	41.5	41.4	41.4	15.33	15.54	14.97
Nondurable Goods	557.55	557.27	528.44	37.8	38.3	37.8	14.75	14.55	13.98
<b>Manchester PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$611.75	\$612.09	\$621.73	37.6	37.9	39.3	\$16.27	\$16.15	\$15.82
<b>Nashua PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$655.36	\$668.68	\$583.60	41.4	42.7	40.0	\$15.83	\$15.66	\$14.59
<b>Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-MA PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$629.60	\$589.82	\$670.56	40.0	38.3	44.0	\$15.74	\$15.40	\$15.24

systems reconvening added 3,800 jobs to February's employment picture. Those same factors influenced private sector education and health services (supersector 65) with a 600-job addition.

Professional and business services (supersector 60) and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) each added 100 jobs to their respective payrolls. Staying even with the previous month's employment totals, natural resources and mining (supersector 10) and informa-

tion (supersector 50) did not adjust their staffing levels.

For some supersectors, February represented a continued rollback from a seasonal peak. Trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) was one of those supersectors with its 1,600-job drop. Construction's (supersector 20) 300-job decrease could be attributed to seasonal influences, but a well-publicized plant closing played a major role in manufacturing's (supersector 30) 300-job decrease.

*B. G. McKay*

Continued from page 1

*Manufacturing* lost another 4,682 jobs, bringing its employment level to 79,290 for third quarter 2003. The over-the-year drop in *Manufacturing* employment has slowed for six consecutive quarters. The 5.6 percent over-the-year decline in third quarter 2003 employment is about one-third of the 15.9 percent loss from first quarter 2001 to first quarter 2002.

### Wages

The average weekly wage for employees working in all industries in the state increased nearly \$20.00 or 3.0 percent from third quarter 2002 to third quarter 2003. Only three sectors saw a decrease in average weekly wage during this time frame – *Construction*; *Mining*; and *Arts, entertainment, and recreation*. Employment in these three sectors, however, increased during this time frame.

Employees in the *Management of companies and enterprises* sector saw their average weekly wage increase by nearly \$98.00, a jump of 8.3 percent. This was, by far, the largest increase (both in magnitude and percent) among the sectors.

Even though the *Utilities* and *Manufacturing* sectors lost employment during this time frame, they actually recorded increases in average weekly wages. The average weekly wage in the *Utilities* sector increased by \$47.24 or 4.1 percent from third quarter 2002 to third quarter 2003. The *Manufacturing* sector's average weekly wage jumped \$39.93, an increase of 4.6 percent.

Elisabeth Picard

Third quarter detailed employment and wage tables for statewide and county specific information are available on our web site at:  
<[www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/covempwagquart.html](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/covempwagquart.html)>

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